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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORT

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15 May 1952

25X1 **SUBJECT** Changes in the Research and Development Program
at Elektrochemisches Kombinat Bitterfeld (SAG
Kaustik)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The following projects have recently been added to the 1952 research and development program at Elektrochemisches Kombinat Bitterfeld (SAG Kaustik):
 - a. The preparation of pure telluric and selenic acids (H_2TeO_4 , H_2SeO_4).
This project will be carried out by Dr. Wehner.(1)
 - b. The construction of a plant for the production of a high potency calcium hypochlorite from the lime process (Kalkverfahren). The available chlorine is to be at least 60-65% and the output is to be at least 2500 tons per year.(1)
 - c. The construction of a reaction kiln for the chlorination of various materials with gaseous Cl_2 . A particular application of this is the production of titanium tetrachloride ($TiCl_4$) by chlorination of titaniferous ore (Titanerz) or rutile.(2)
 - d. In addition to the above major projects, a number of minor ones have been added, including one covering the preparation of 5 kilos of boron trifluoride by 31 March 1952.
2. The following research and development projects have been cancelled:
 - a. The preparation of pure rare-earth metals from monazite.
 - b. The preparation of titanium and zirconium metal.
 - c. The preparation of alumina from clay by the combined acid-alkali process. This project was cancelled on grounds of expense. The pure Speketer (acid only) process is to be continued, as also is the production of anhydrous magnesium chloride.(3)

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3. Recent developments with Aluminum Plants I and II:

- a. Since the end of the first week of February 1952, Aluminum Plant I has been working at full capacity, having received large supplies of alumina from Hungary. In February there appeared to be no indication that these supplies would fail in the immediate future.
- b. The major part of the regular quality foundry aluminum produced by Aluminum Plant I is dispatched to the Hettstedt rolling mills (SAG Marten).
- c. As previously reported (4), it was proposed to rebuild Aluminum Plant II during 1952. This project was later cancelled. It is now planned that this plant will be in production by the end of 1953. This was stated on 15 February 1952 by the finance director, Pleschenko, at a meeting with representatives of various electrical firms who would be concerned in the re-equipping of the rebuilt factory. The amount of capital to be made available was not mentioned.

(1) [redacted] these projects were assigned by the USSR, since there were no reasons given for them and in the case of projects put forward by the works or from other DDR concerns, reasons are fully stated.

(2) [redacted] this project was assigned by the USSR. [redacted] no preparation of titanium metal is being attempted.

(3) [redacted] Comment: The Speketer process is operating only on the pilot plant scale and many difficulties are being encountered.

(4) [redacted]
 [redacted]
 [redacted] a new installation for producing hydrogen peroxide has been constructed there from "Vinidur".
 [redacted] the strength of H₂O₂ being produced or the quantity.

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